(b) Government of India would respond positively if an offer for talks by the NDFB on the same lines as with BLT is received.

(c) The Govt, has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam including BAC areas under control. These include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-military forces and army in the State, coordinated action by army. Para-military forces and State Police for" counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of insurgency affected States as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernisation/upgradation of State police Force. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Unconditional Talks with Militant Groups in North East

1223. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to have unconditional dialogue with different militant groups in North East - such as ULFA, NDF(B), and Tripura Militants, Karbi Militants, NSCN(K) etc; and

(b) whether Govemment would declare ceasefire with ULFA as gesture to create a conducive atmosphere for a fruitful dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

Complaint by Minorities Commission on the Plight of Refugees from Afghanistan

1224. SHRl YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minorities Commission has complained about the plight of Indian refugees arriving from Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the action taken to help such refugees who are living in penury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl CHENN AM ANENIVTDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.